

**The Community Advocates for Family & Youth (CAFY) mission** is to educate, empower, and embrace victims as they speak truth on the journey to justice.

### **Victim Services**

We assign trained Victim Advocates to support victims of crime.

A Victim Advocate is there throughout the process, from investigation to indictment, to answer questions and help with concerns. Advocates are companions whether there's a trial and sentencing, or no arrest.

We act as a "ConstantLink" to victims of crime and their non-offending family members. Our Advocates:

- Make an assessment of overall needs.
- Assist child victims and families through the entire process, providing emotional support and referrals.
- Enroll the child in the Youth Court Education Program.
- Stay in continuous contact: assess needs, check on counseling, keep victims and their families informed, work on compensation forms, victim impact statements, and VINE (information on perpetrator status including arrests, court dates, etc.)
- Offer referrals for long-term services when support is needed beyond the court process.

Victim Advocates constantly receive training that enhances their skills and knowledge, enabling them to be highly effective in helping victims with a variety of needs.



## Community Advocates for Family & Youth

**Crime - It's Real, It's Wrong**

**Speak Out for Yourself**

**Or**

**Someone Else.**

**301-390-4092**  
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# Adult Court Education Program



**A Non-Evidentiary  
Victim and Witness Service**



**Community Advocates  
for  
Family & Youth**

**[www.cafyonline.org](http://www.cafyonline.org)**

**The Adult Courtroom Education Program (ACEP)** sessions educate victims and witnesses of crime to know their rights, the resources available to them and participate fully in the court process. They are the most important participants in the criminal justice system and we assist and supporting them through the process.

**What is it?**

Adult Sessions are conducted:

- In a group at the Prince George's County Courthouse on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month from 10:30 – 1:00PM.
- Individually with an Advocate.

**Why Attend the Group?**

- Adults can attend either or both sessions. Both are beneficial.
- To get common questions answered and share with others.
- To learn what to expect.

**Why is this offered?**

**NO ONE** should appear in a court of law without someone there to make the experience less intimidating.

Victims/Witnesses must know they are **NOT ALONE**.

Victims and witnesses must be educated to **actively participate in the process** and know what to expect.

**Who Can Attend?**

Any **resident of Prince George's county, 18+**, involved in the criminal justice system. For age 17 and below see our

**Youth Court Education Program** Information.

**What we teach**

Many people get involved in the criminal justice through no fault of their own and don't know what to expect. **The witness plays the most important role during the process.**

We help all participants learn and discuss:

- The role of a witness.
- The rights of victims and witnesses
- The court process
- Tips on being an effective witness.
- How to reduce their fears and anxieties
- How to manage courtroom worries
- Common terms and personnel
- Courtroom Protocol



**Each person** has a role to play in the justice system, especially victims and witnesses. **Adult Courtroom Education** is designed to put to rest common questions or fears:

- Will the accused be able to talk me?
- I won't be able to talk once I'm on the stand.
- Who will ask the questions?
- Where will I be before I testify?
- Can I be in courtroom while the trial is going on?
- What if the accuser's attorney calls me?

**Sessions offer support and discussions on:**

- Victims Rights
- How witnesses and victims are coping
- Concerns about being involved
- Services and Support available
- Assistance in completing Criminal Injuries Compensation Forms
- Discussion on the importance of a Victim Impact Statement



We empower individuals with court information will help them to have a strong **positive impact in the courtroom to help bring about justice.**



**CAFY uses education and support to help victims become confident and empowered survivors who hold offenders accountable.**

**CALL 301-390-4092**